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INTRODUCTION.

It has been announced by the Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist General Convention, that "the Board of Managers, impressed with the conviction that the American Baptist Magazine ought to present to the Churches and to the public, not only missionary intelligence, but also other articles adapted to promote the interests of Christian truth and piety, have appointed" the undersigned "to edit the work, except the part which is to contain missionary and religious intelligence; and this part has been committed to the particular charge of Mr. E. Lincoln, of Boston." In the same announcement the hope has been expressed, "that a vigorous effort will now be made to increase the number of subscribers; and that all our brethren and friends will feel the importance of contributing their aid, and co-operating to sustain the common cause. In this way, many of the benefits which might have arisen from the Repository and Christian Review, may be secured in addition to those arising from the regular organ of the Board for communicating intelligence from all our missions."

After this statement, it may be proper to remark, that circumstances beyond our control, suspended the publication of the Repository and Christian Review; circumstances which it is not necessary to mention, but which released us entirely from any obligation to proceed. And we are happy to add, they were circumstances which permit us yet to hope that the good sense of our Denomination, when properly addressed, will not reject the advantages of a publication possessing substantially the same character as the one which was proposed, however its form may be modified. Especially do we hope this in reference to the American Baptist Magazine.

It is now intended to be, in some measure, what the work alluded to might have been; and, as being the appropriate organ of the Board for communicating missionary intelligence, it will have an additional and a peculiar claim.

Many, we doubt not, are prepared to welcome a work which, while it has for its leading object the promotion of the cause of Christ, shall contain reviews and notices of the most interesting publications; essays on subjects that 'come home to men's business and bosoms;' historical and biographical sketches, letters and miscellaneous communications; illustrations of difficult passages in the Holy Scriptures; selections from foreign Journals and other sources, of pieces peculiarly important; a copious account of the proceedings of the Board of Managers of the Baptist General Convention, and respecting the missions under their patronage; a general view of other missionary and benevolent operations; a compendium of religious, literary, and philosophical intelligence; and a list of new publications. Such a work we hope to see the Magazine, till our missions become so numerous, and the intelligence from them so abundant, as to call imperiously for the monthly publication of a separate Missionary Register. Perhaps it will then be thought expedient to have for the other articles a quarterly publication.

The distinguishing opinions of the Baptist Denomination we deem to be important; and whenever occasion presents itself, we shall think it our duty to vindicate them. At the same time, we shall endeavor to do it in such a manner as shall commend itself to the consciences of our brethren, of whatever name, and to the approbation of our common Lord.

On occasions like the present, high pretensions to catholicism, and splendid promises are so often and so easily made, that we have ceased to value them much. We would rather let the rule of our Saviour be applied: *By their fruits ye shall know them.*

We have indeed had encouragement of assistance from some able pens; and no small part of that portion of the work for which we shall be responsible, will be closely connected with the fields in which we are daily toiling. Well written communications, we need not say, will be gratefully received. And we trust that we shall not be found indifferent to the interests of truth and of intellectual improvement, nor to the encouragement of those who labor to promote the real dignity and happiness of man in any portion either of our country, or of the world.

Amidst the clashing of opinions, and of tastes and dispositions, we cannot expect to please all. But we shall sincerely endeavor to benefit all who will listen to us. We hold in abhorrence that haughty abuse of criticism which delights in wounding the feelings of a well-meaning writer; and we hold in equal abhorrence, we loathe that fulsome style of commendation which excites attention to a writer, rather than to what he has written. When we can approve, we shall do it with pleasure. When we must censure, we shall do it with pain. What is true and right must be maintained; but we hope to speak *the truth in love.*

IRAH CHASE.
H. J. RIPLEY.

THE Baptist Magazine stands identified with the rise and progress of those successful missionary efforts, by which the United States and the Christian world have been prominently distinguished for the last thirty years. At an early period of these efforts, the Baptist Missionary Society of Massachusetts was organized. The heralds of the Gospel, whom this Society commissioned to explore the wilderness and the frontiers, announced intelligence both awakening and exhilarating, which imperiously called for a medium of communication, to awake the churches from slumber. Periodicals adapted to the purpose were few in number. Religious newspapers were unknown. At this interesting crisis, the Baptist Magazine was commenced; and the happy effects which it produced were far greater than its most sanguine friends anticipated. The spiritual wants of the frontiers, which were detailed in its pages, the encouragements for missionary labor which were exhibited, and the happy revivals of religion which it announced, electrified the churches, multiplied friends of Missions, and called forth funds for their support. The ancient establishments enjoyed more enlarged spiritual prosperity at home, by their awakened interest for the benefit of others, and a gratifying advance has been witnessed in the numbers and the abilities of the Baptist Churches.

In the progress and extension of missionary efforts, and the increase of religious intelligence, the mediums of communication have rapidly multiplied. Religious papers, issued weekly, now abound in the various States of the Union, and are widely diffusing the most important information. We rejoice in their circula-

tion, and wish more extensive patronage to their laborious and persevering conductors. But although the weekly papers have become numerous, and may sometimes anticipate the intelligence of a less frequent publication, they do not supersede its utility. Both may harmoniously labor in the same field. A Magazine, besides furnishing varied original communications, will comprise condensed records of numerous events, which would otherwise be lost, or be scattered in publications not easily susceptible of preservation.

The Baptist Board of Foreign Missions require an official organ of communication to the churches, and to the public; and for this purpose the American Baptist Magazine has been placed under their direction. A portion of it, entitled the Missionary Register, comprising, generally, from eight to twelve pages, will be appropriated to this object; in which will also be comprised concise statements of the progress of missions generally, and a summary of religious intelligence. Accounts of revivals of religion, ordinations, the organization of churches, the opening of meeting-houses, and whatever relates to the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, are particularly solicited from correspondents in the different States, that the work may be rendered a welcome visitant in every domestic circle.

E. LINCOLN.

Boston, Jan. 1, 1829.